

IN THE DRAWINGS

In Figs. 11-16 add the legend "(RELATED ART)" as shown in the attached drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4, amended claims 1 and 3, and new claim 5 are in this application.

The Examiner stated that "Figures 11-16 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--."

Figs. 11-16 have been amended herein to include the legend "Related Art."

The disclosure was objected to because of several informalities. In explaining this objection, the Examiner stated that it "is believed that on page 6 line 17 the Applicant intended to refer to Fig. 13 and not Fig. 12. Also on page 12 line 19, 'Pcn1 to Pcnm' should be corrected to 'Pnc1 to Pncm'."

The present application has been amended herein so as to incorporate the changes suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner stated that the "lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors" and requested Applicants' cooperation in correcting errors of which the applicants are aware.

The present application has been amended herein to correct possible minor errors.

Claims 1-4 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 2 and 11 of copending Application No. 10/533,612.

Independent claims 1 and 3 (from which claims 2 and 4 respectively depend) have been amended herein. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the above 101 rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bienek et al. (WO 02/078388 A2).

Amended independent claim 1 now recites in part the following:

"focusing sounds outputted from the plurality of speakers of the speaker array to a location of a listener inside a sound field after being reflected by a wall surface of the closed space with a sound pressure greater than a sound pressure at a peripheral location in the closed space by setting predetermined respective delay times for said plurality of digital filters, respectively." (Emphasis added.)

The above-identified features of claim 1 are believed to be described in the present application. As an example, reference is made to Figs. 1 and 2 and lines 15-31 of page 6 of the present application.

Accordingly, in claim 1, sounds from the plurality of speakers may be focused to a location of a listener inside a sound field after being reflected by a wall surface. It is respectfully submitted that Bienek as applied by the Examiner does not appear to disclose such features. That is, in explaining the above 102 rejection with regard to claim 1, the Examiner appears to assert that the description of the "Third Sound Field" on pages 21-22 and Figs. 7C and 8 of Bienek disclose the above features of claim 1. In response, although such portions of Bienek appear to mention focusing sound, such portions do not appear to disclose "focusing sounds outputted from the plurality of speakers . . . to a location of a listener inside a sound field after being reflected by a wall surface."

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as presented herein is distinguishable from Bienek as applied by the Examiner.

For reasons similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 3 is also distinguishable from Bienek as applied by the Examiner.

Claims 2 and 4 are respectively dependent from independent claims 1 and 3. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2 and 4 are distinguishable from Bienek as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described.

New independent claim 5 has been added herein. Such claim 5 is believed to be distinguishable from Bienek as applied by the Examiner for reasons similar or somewhat similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1.

As it is believed that all of the objections and rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections and/or rejections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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